

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00786 281511Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 /052 W

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R 281300Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7211

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

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COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: MASS, PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: MALAGASY MILITARYEQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 71793

1. DURING TALK WITH GENERAL ANDRIAMHAZO, CHAIRMAN, MALAGASY MILITARY DIRECTORY, APRIL 24, HE INDICATED HE THINKING OF ASKING MINISTER FINANCE FOR \$5 MILLION FOR MILITARY PURCHASES.

2. HE REQUESTED PRICE AND DELIVERY DATA ON FOLLOWING (IN ADDITION TO THAT FURNISHED REFTTEL) IN ORDER ENABLE COMPARISON:

A. M-14 RIFLE (COST FOR BOTH SEMI-AUTOMATIC AND WITH DEVICE FOR MAKING IT AUTOMATIC).

B. M-76 GRENADE LAUNCHER, INCLUDING COST FOR ATTACHMENT TO M-16 AND ATTACHMENT TO M-14.

C. CARBINE (WORLD WAR II TYPE, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE NON-AUTOMATIC).

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00786 281511Z

D. MORTARS, BOTH 60 AND 81 MM.

E. ANDRIAMAHAZO ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN HELICOPTERS FOR USE AGAINST WIDELY PREVALENT CATTLE THEFT AND FOR "VEDETTES" (PATROL CRAFT) TO PREVENT ILLEGAL USE OF MALAGASY COASTAL WATERS. I TRIED TALK HIM OUT OF HELICOPTERS BECAUSE OF HIGH COST OF BOTH OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. I URGED USE HORSES AGAINST CATTLE RUSTLING (AS EARLIER DONE IN WEST IN U.S.), BUT HE SAID HORSES DO NOT ADAPT WELL TO MADAGASCAR. I REFRAINED FROM TRYING DISSUADE HIM AGAINST PURCHASE OF WATER PATROL CRAFT, AS HE OBVIOUSLY MOTIVATED BY RECENT ESCAPE OF AMERICAN PRISONER REPPAS, WHICH HIGHLY EMBARRASSING IN OUR RELATIONS WITH GOMR.

4. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE PRICE AND DELIVERY QUOTATIONS ALSO FOR MOST ECONOMICAL TYPE HELICOPTER (PERHAPS H-34) AND FOR FAST PATROL CRAFT SUCH AS "SWIFT" OR TYPE OF SMALL RIVER PATROL BOAT SUITABLE FOR WORK IN COASTAL WATERS.
MENDENHALL

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